

[Home](#)[CEO Hotline](#)[Viewpoint](#)[Classified Ads](#)[Archives](#)[Metro.net \(web\)](#)

## Resources

[Safety](#)[Pressroom \(web\)](#)[Ask the CEO](#)[CEO Forum](#)[Employee Recognition](#)[Employee Activities](#)[Metro Projects](#)[Facts at a Glance \(web\)](#)[Archives](#)[Events Calendar](#)[Research Center/Library](#)[Metro Classifieds](#)[Bazaar](#)

## Metro Info

[30/10 Initiative](#)[Policies](#)[Training](#)[Help Desk](#)[Intranet Policy](#)

## Need e-Help?

Call the Help Desk  
at 2-4357

[Contact myMetro.net](#)

Deputy Annmarie Matusik kept the flames at bay.



Deputy Jeff Kim caught the two children.

### Fire Rescue Deputies to be Nominated for Lifesaving Award

- Deputies Kim and Matusik helped save two children from apartment fire

(Dec. 28, 2005) The Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau deputies who helped rescue two children from a burning building, early Tuesday, will be nominated for the department's prestigious Lifesaving Award.

Deputies Jeff Kim and Annmarie Matusik were alerted to a fire in the Imperial Gardens complex in Watts by a passing trucker. Matusik beat back flames with a fire extinguisher, allowing Kim to catch two children who could have been trapped in a second-floor apartment.

"The teamwork those two displayed in an impromptu situation where they didn't have time to coordinate efforts, and then to effect a rescue, is a testimony to their ability to think on the fly," said TSB commanding officer Cmdr. Dan Finkelstein, who will nominate Kim and Matusik for the Lifesaving Award.

It was a beeping smoke detector and her mother's screams that woke Wilshawnda Watkins, 17, just before 3 a.m., Tuesday. Smoke and fire were racing through the building. She grabbed her year-old daughter, Tyrea, and opened the window.

Watkins ran to the door of her room, but saw that the stairs were blocked by flames from the first floor. Just as she was closing the door, her 9-year-old brother, Jermaine, hobbled in, his ears and hands scorched by the fire.

Jermaine is still recovering from injuries suffered in an automobile wreck in November that left him with two broken legs and a broken arm. He only recently stopped using a wheelchair and leg braces.

**Jumped from the window**

While Deputy Matusik kept the fire under control below the apartment window, Watkins dropped baby Tyrea into Deputy Kim's arms. Then, urging Jermaine to join her, she jumped from the window.

Jermaine, however, waited a little longer, before finally being persuaded to jump. Kim caught him and the two rolled away from the flames.

The boy was hospitalized with burns on the backs of his ears and hands. Kim, 44, was treated for smoke inhalation and a badly bruised lip. Kim fractured two teeth during the rescue.

A native of Korea who always wanted to be a law enforcement officer, Kim graduated from the Sheriff's Academy in April 2002, trained at the Lennox station and was assigned to the TSB in March 2003.

Matusic graduated from the Academy in March 2000, completed patrol training at the San Dimas station and was assigned to the TSB in March, 2001.

"All of us are fortunate the deputies were on the scene," said Finkelstein. "I applaud the deputies' efforts. I'm glad they were there to help the family."